IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c) A crack in the calandria side tube sheet of the south end shield of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-I caused the leak initially. Location of the leak is in an inaccessible and high radiation area and, therefore, involves remote operations for repair. Sealing arrangements were made to fix the leak that occurred in 1987 and thereafter, the unit was put back into service. The unit generated 218 and 473 million units in 1987 and 1988 respectively and the unit is at present under repairs to attend to leak that reappeared on December 30, 1988. The light water leak is within the reactor building and does not pose any hazard to the plant personnel, general public or the environment.

Better facilities to Defence Personnels

3083. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been urged recently to provide better housing, clothing and other facilities to the defence personnels, along with modern weapons ;

(b) whether recently a two Day Seminar on Arms and Defence personnel was held in Gwalior ; and a number of suggestions have been proposed in the seminar ; and

(c) if so, what are the benefits that will be provided to the defence personnel during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) Government have always striven to provide improved facilities to service personnel.

(b) and (c) The Seminar in Gwalior was intended to focus Research and Development efforts on some aspects of infra-structure and logistic support. It would not be possible to quantify the outcome thereof during 1989-90.

Transfer of Technology from France regarding Defence Equipment

3084. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has made clear to France that it was interested in transfer of sophisticated technology and not in the outright purchase of defence equipment;

(b) if so, whether France has agreed for technical transfer of technology ; and

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with France if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) to (c) while holding delegation level discussions during the visit of the French Defence Minister to India in December, 1988, the French side was intimated that the Indian side viewed defence corporation between India and France as involving not only purchase of equipment but also joint development and production efforts and buy-back arrangements as well. The French side are, however, yet to respond with concrete proposals. No agreements have, therefore, been signed on the subject.